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SLUMLORD MULTIMILLIONAIRE

Emmanuel Freeman infamously mismanaged and squandered some $100 million in grants for Northwest Philadelphia's low-income residents, and now the city is moving to seize some of his blighted rental properties. 4-5

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5 THINGS TO KNOW

WELCOME TO METRO PHILLY

SAM NEWHOUSE, REPORTER

Germantown has been suffering from the legacy of one man for years — Emmanuel Freeman, a former nonprofit director who mismanaged and squandered millions of grant dollars for housing projects in impoverished areas. The Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority recently filed to foreclose on all the properties tied to Freeman, but now is sifting through the complicated process of taking over homes that still have tenants and are, in some cases, badly in need of repair. Read more on pages 4-5 and at **metrophilly.us**.

GIULIANI DOES NOT RULE OUT PAYMENTS TO WOMEN

1 President Donald Trump's attorney, Rudy Giuliani, said on Sunday he would not rule out the possibility that payments were made to women other than porn star Stormy Daniels to get them to stay silent about allegations against Trump. Giuliani told ABC's "This Week" that he had no knowledge of whether former Trump attorney Michael Cohen had made other payments, but he said: "I would think if it was necessary, yes. He [Cohen] made payments for the president or he's conducted business for the president." Giuliani called the $130,000 Cohen paid to Daniels in 2016 a "nuisance payment." Daniels alleges that she had a sexual encounter with Trump in 2006. Trump has denied Daniels' allegations. Cohen, Trump's longtime personal lawyer, faces a criminal investigation in part over the payment to Daniels, whose real name is Stephanie Clifford. Daniels' lawyer, Michael Avenatti, accused Trump of having an "extramarital affair slush fund" and told ABC he believed similar payments had been made to other women. Disclosure of additional payments could complicate matters for Trump, who denied knowledge that money was paid to Daniels. ***Read more on page 8.***

ANGER IN EUROPE OVER TRUMP'S GUN SPEECH

2 President Donald Trump caused anger in France and Britain by suggesting looser gun laws could have helped prevent attacks in Paris in 2015 and linking knife crime in London to a handgun ban. In a speech to the National Rifle Association (NRA) on Friday, Trump mimicked the shooting of victims in the Paris rampage and said if civilians had been armed "it would have been a whole different story." The French government issued its strongest criticism of Trump since he took office and one minister urged the leader to apologize, at a time when President Emmanuel Macron has been reinforcing bilateral ties. "France expresses its firm disapproval of President Trump's comments about the Paris attacks on Nov. 13, 2015 and demands that the memory of the victims be respected," the foreign office said in a statement. "France is proud to be a country where acquiring and carrying firearms is strictly regulated." French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire said he hoped Trump "would come back on his words and express regret." "His comments are shocking and not worthy of the president of the world's greatest superpower," Le Maire told BFM television on Sunday.

HUNDREDS FORCED TO EVACUATE AS HAWAII'S KILAUEA VOLCANO ERUPTS

3 In this handout photo provided by the U.S. Geological Survey, lava from a fissure slowly advances to the northeast on Hookapu Street after the eruption of Hawaii's Kīlauea volcano on Saturday in the Leilani Estates subdivision near Pahoa, Hawaii. The governor of Hawaii has declared a local state of emergency near the Mount Kilauea volcano after it erupted following a 5.0-magnitude earthquake, forcing the evacuation of nearly 1,700 residents.

GETTY IMAGES

POLL: FACEBOOK USERS LOYAL SINCE SCANDAL

4 Most of Facebook's U.S. users have remained loyal to the social network despite revelations that a political consultancy collected information about millions of accounts without owners' permission, a Reuters/Ipsos poll released on Sunday showed. Facebook has faced pressure from regulators, privacy advocates and shareholders since it said in March that political consultant Cambridge Analytica wrongly obtained personal data through a quiz app connected to Facebook. U.S. lawmakers grilled Facebook Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg for two days on the matter. The Reuters/Ipsos poll adds to other indications that Facebook has so far suffered no ill effects from the episode, other than a public relations headache. The national online poll, conducted April 26-30, found that about half of Facebook's American users said they had not recently changed the amount that they used the site, and another quarter said they were using it more. The remaining quarter said that they were using it less recently, had stopped using it or deleted their account. That means that the people using Facebook less were roughly balanced by those using it more, with no clear net loss or gain.

CIA NOMINEE CONSIDERS WITHDRAWING CANDIDACY

5 President Donald Trump's nominee to lead the CIA, Gina Haspel, sought to withdraw over concerns about her role in the agency's interrogation program, two sources familiar with the matter told Reuters on Sunday. Haspel's offer to withdraw on Friday was prompted by growing concern among her supporters that White House staff were becoming nervous that the nomination was in trouble, the sources said. The Washington Post first reported her offer to withdraw. Haspel was summoned to the White House on Friday for a meeting to discuss her history in the interrogation program that employed techniques, including waterboarding, widely condemned as torture, the Post reported, citing four unidentified senior U.S. officials. She told the White House she would step aside to avoid a brutal Senate Intelligence Committee confirmation hearing on Wednesday that might damage the CIA, the officials told the Post. White House aides including legislative affairs liaison Marc Short and spokeswoman Sarah Sanders then rushed to Langley for discussions on Friday that lasted several hours but did not secure a commitment from her to stick with the nomination, the paper said.

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Forty-five properties are identified as still under Emmanuel Freeman's control. COURTESY OF GERMANTOWN UNITED CDC

Infamous Germantown scammer allegedly trying to steal rent from tenants

Germantown was hit by a real estate, nonprofit/social services scam that seems too big to believe. Now the city is picking up the pieces.

SAM NEWHOUSE
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In his heyday, Emmanuel Freeman got millions of dollars in grants for the various social service agencies he ran purportedly to help low-income, minority residents of Germantown, and from which he, his wife Emma and their cronies profited handsomely. But in 2018, Freeman has been settling for a couple hundred bucks at a time, squeezed out of the low-income, minority residents who still live in the properties he controls but does not legally own.

But hopefully, that won't happen anymore. Last week, a community meeting was held for the estimated 140 tenants of 45 properties identified as still under Freeman's control, which are currently headed for foreclosure after the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority (PRA) last month decided to default on $3.5 million in loans to Freeman and take over the properties. That decision came after a public outcry when it was learned in February that PRA was considering Freeman's offer to pay back the $3.5 million in return for the forgiveness of $5 million in debts and penalties, which the PRA ultimately rejected.

"We were about to make a mistake. We should have done more due diligence. We didn't. But we stopped it," said City Director of Planning and Development Anne Fadullon at the meeting. "We heard you and said, 'Okay, this is a bad actor, we're not playing with that bad actor anymore.'"

But while the PRA has expressed support for keeping the tenants in their homes and keeping rents affordable, plans are not set in stone. Many of the properties are blighted and have large utility and tax debts. Some have serious structural problems, and many units are vacant.

"We're just trying to figure out what's going on," said Lamont Anderson, a rent-paying resident of Hamill Mills, one of the Freeman properties. "Nothing in my kitchen works. Eighty percent of my apartment's electric is busted. The heat, hot water, gas all has problems. We'll see what happens."

The properties in question were ordered sold off in 2010 by a judge after many of Freeman's interconnected social service agencies across Northwest Philly declared bankruptcy, but trustees apparently never followed through.

"There were rumors that Emmanuel Freeman was still collecting from properties he owned, or still controlled," said Connie Winters, a Germantown developer, "but the community was asleep and assumed the court-appointed trustees were doing their job to dissolve the assets of the corporation."

Freeman has been continuing to collect rent and even in recent

Streets Commissioner David Perri and City Councilwoman Cindy Bass vowed to help address quality-of-life issues at Freeman's properties. COURTESY OF GERMANTOWN UNITED CDC

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weeks to contact tenants to demand more illegal rent, some said. He has even allegedly stolen money from tenants he said is for repairs, taking $1,300 from one tenant for a leaky roof that he never fixed. But despite all this, many tenants at the meeting wanted to find out how to stay in their home or, if they can, to buy it. (Freeman, who fled Philadelphia for Bear, Delaware, years ago, could not be reached for comment.)

"That meeting last night was the first time that anyone from the Redevelopment Authority or the councilwoman's office was directly engaging with tenants," said Emaleigh Doley, executive director of Germantown United CDC, which organized the meeting. "People living in these properties that are being discussed downtown need to be prioritized, and they need to know about what's happening, because they're afraid."

Streets Commissioner David Perri and City Councilwoman Cindy Bass vowed at the meeting to help address trash and other quality-of-life issues at Freeman's properties. Attorney and neighborhood activist Yvonne Haskins offered to personally represent any tenant who is threatened with eviction.

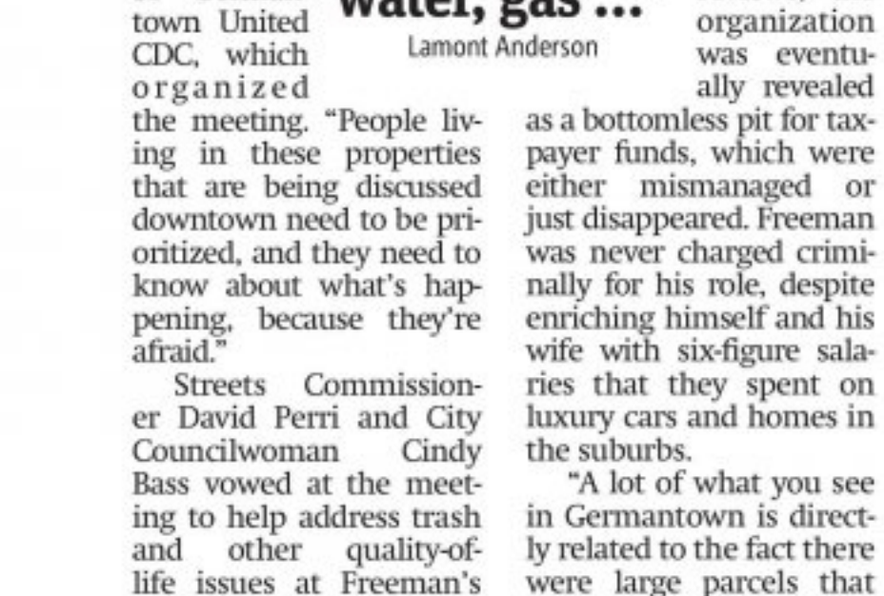
But tenants at the meeting also learned the sordid, shameful history of Germantown Settlement: how Freeman took over a Quaker charity founded in the 1880s and marshaled significant political support to collect some $100 million in taxpayer-funded grants, before going bankrupt in 2010. From social programs to a charter school, housing and commercial development, Germantown Settlement did it all, with the encouragement and support of local politicians and officials, like former Councilwoman Donna Reed Miller and former PRA Executive Director Herb Wetzel.

As of 2006, the year Settlement bought the Germantown YWCA for $1.8 million in city and state funds (which remains vacant and undeveloped today), it owned some 500 units of housing and 170,000 square feet of retail space. But despite some of Settlement's early projects getting positive reviews, the organization was eventually revealed as a bottomless pit for taxpayer funds, which were either mismanaged or just disappeared. Freeman was never charged criminally for his role, despite enriching himself and his wife with six-figure salaries that they spent on luxury cars and homes in the suburbs.

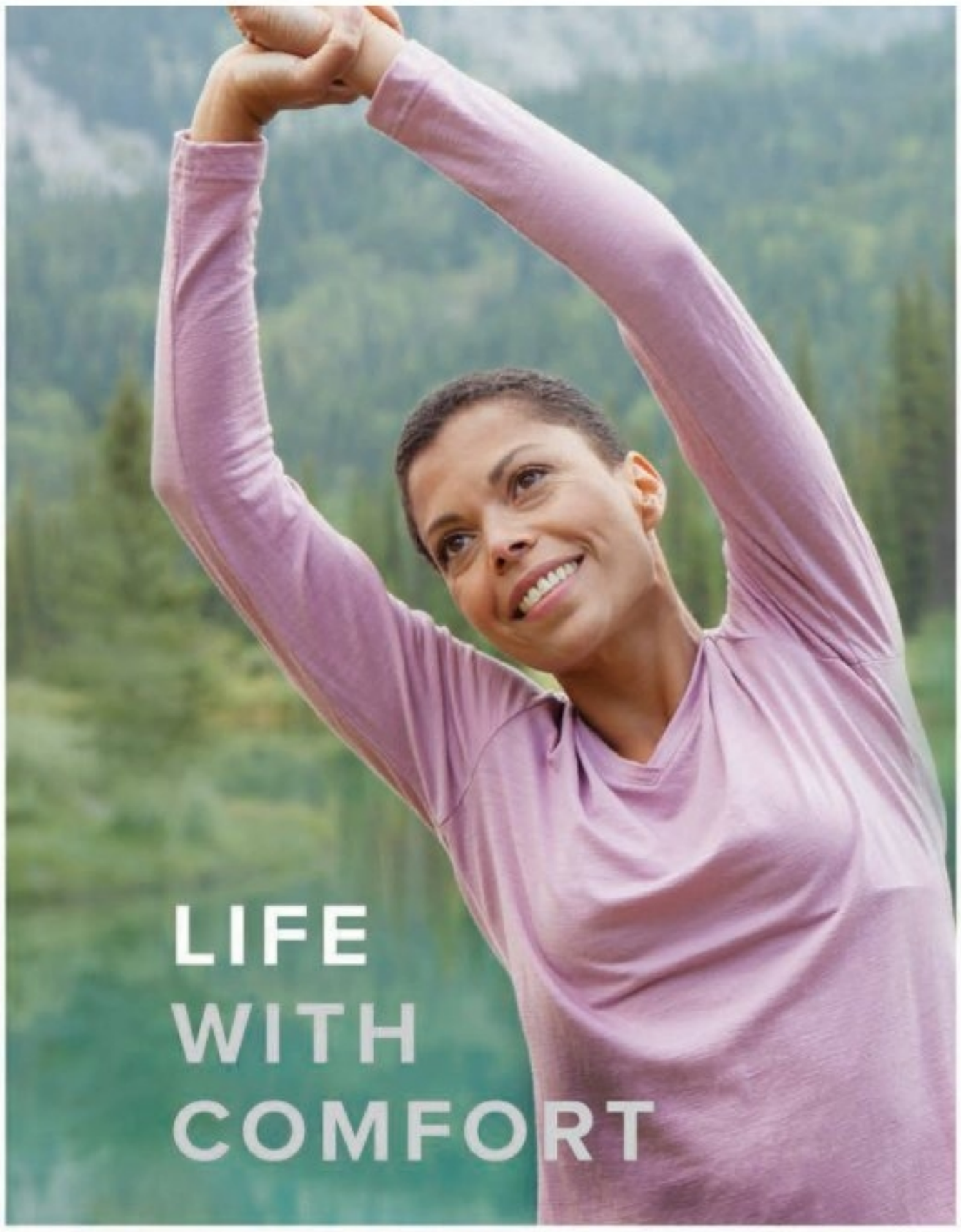
"Eighty percent of my apartment's electric is busted. The heat, hot water, gas ..."
Lamont Anderson

"A lot of what you see in Germantown is directly related to the fact there were large parcels that were owned by these organizations and weren't taken care of, so blight breeds blight," Bass said at the meeting. "None of the people on stage were involved or were a part of what happened. ... However, what we are going to do is fix it."

Any tenants of former Freeman properties are urged to contact Councilwoman Bass' office at 215-686-3424 or Germantown United CDC at 215-856-4303.



From left, City Councilwoman Cindy Bass, PRA Executive Director Greg Heller and City Director of Planning and Development Anne Fadullon talk to tenants of former Germantown Settlement properties, which are now in foreclosure. SAM NEWHOUSE



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Foster care agency settles lawsuit over death of Philadelphia 10-year-old

Ethan Okula died at age 10 after falling sick while in school. COURTESY OF THE OKULA FAMILY

A lawsuit over the death of a foster kid who fell ill at school and later died at his foster home ended with a $5 million settlement by Northeast Treatment Centers and Turning Points for Children.

SAM NEWHOUSE
sam.newhouse@metro.us

A lawsuit filed on behalf of the family of a 10-year-old foster child who fell ill while at school, then died after neither school staff nor his foster parents sought medical treatment for his gastric condition, ended with two Philadelphia social service providers agreeing to pay $5 million, attorneys announced.

Ethan Okula, 10, died on Feb. 10, 2016, after he fell ill at his North Philly elementary school in the morning with severe intestinal pain. He was brought to his foster home that afternoon, and by evening, he had stopped breathing. The cause of death was later determined to be an intestinal blockage, caused by a gastric condition.

> **"Ethan was a precious, adorable child who was failed by adults on so many levels."**
> NET President Regan Kelly

Northeast Treatment Centers (NET) had placed Ethan in the home of foster mom Denise Alston, 55, seven months prior, with Turning Points for Children providing case management. But the agencies did not adequately inform Alston of Ethan's medical history, attorneys Nadeem Bezar and Emily Marks said in a lawsuit they filed by on behalf of Ethan's grandparents and brother, who is also in foster care and will be the beneficiary of the lawsuit.

"Ethan was a precious, adorable child who was failed by adults on so many levels," NET President Regan Kelly said in a statement. "Tragically, there was a huge communication breakdown in his case. As a result we never had the critical information, and on the day of his death we did not have the opportunity to intervene. Others did have that opportunity. And that makes Ethan's death all the more heartbreaking."

According to a state investigation of Ethan's death, he fell ill at Julia De Burgos Elementary in North Philly around 9:38 on Feb. 10, with symptoms including vomiting, defecating on himself and being unable to walk. But no one at the school called 911 when Alston's friend, Carol Fletcher, 53, didn't come to pick up Ethan until 1 p.m.

Alston and Fletcher left Ethan on a couch, believing him to be ill from overeating, they told state foster care investigators.

"It hurts my heart to think about how Ethan spent his last few hours in pain before he died alone," Bezar said in a statement. "I pray that the tragedy of Ethan's death continues to inspire those who work in child welfare to continue to protect this vulnerable population."

Ethan's death and other cases prompted a wave of reform at Philly DHS. The agency said it has increased compensation for foster parents, now holds monthly meetings with resource parents, providers and older youth, communicates more with the School District, is recruiting new foster parents and has decreased social worker caseloads to a current average of about 11 cases per social worker.

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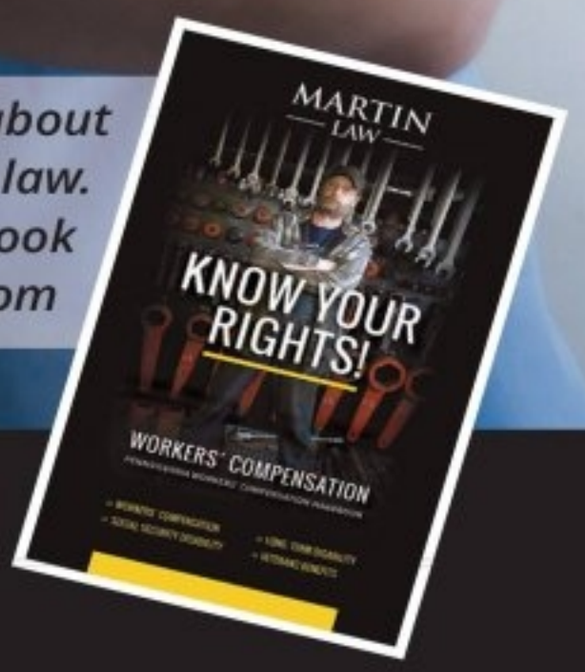

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Rudy Giuliani has been forced to clean up last week's mess. GETTY IMAGES

TRUMP'S AMERICA

RUDY CLEANS UP THE CLEANUP

Analysis

ELLIS HENICAN

Metro columnist Ellis Henican is the author of a dozen books including "Trumpitude: The Secret Confessions of Donald's Brain." Join Ellis on Twitter @henican.

Why hide? Whatever else might be said of Rudy Giuliani, the former New York mayor does not suffer from excessive timidity. And there he was again on Sunday, sitting in the glare of television lights, publicly counterpunching on behalf of his latest client, the president of the United States.

Asked by George Stephanopoulos if Donald Trump and his personal attorney Michael Cohen had paid off women besides the porn star Stormy Daniels, Rudy gave an answer guaranteed to provoke further questions.

"If it was necessary," he said.

Honestly, it was the only possible answer for an advocate like Rudy and a client like Trump — assertive-sounding, noncommittal, delivered with heavy spice of duh!

God only knows who might pop up next!

Rudy's been forced to clean up last week's mess, when he conceded to Sean Hannity that Trump repaid Cohen's $130,000 in Stormy hush money and did it, at least in part, with an eye on Election Day.

Not only did that paint Rudy's client as a liar, it also conceded a key charge of the critics — that, of course, Stormy's claim represented a potentially devastating land mine.

That's what Rudy was getting at in the early hours of the mop-up on Thursday morning when he declared: "Imagine if that came out on Oct. 15 in the middle of the last debate with Hillary Clinton. Cohen made it go away. He did his job."

This might not have been helpful, but it was undeniably true.

In Washington, as the brilliant Michael Kingsley once famously said, a gaffe is when a politician tells the truth.

And that's the real squeeze Rudy Giuliani is in. If he admits the obvious, he hurts his client. If he doesn't, he loses credibility.

So he's walking down a narrow corridor and bumping against both sides.

As far as Trump testifying in front of Robert Mueller's grand jury, Rudy found his only sanctuary in sarcasm.

"I'm going to walk him into a prosecution for perjury like Martha Stewart?"

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Jerez Coleman poses for a picture for his Facebook page. FACEBOOK

Ex-con poses as fake DJ, visits Philadelphia high school

The Philadelphia School District failed to do a background check on Jerez Coleman.

SARAH LUOMA
letters@metro.us

School officials at the Philadelphia High School for the Creative and Performing Arts are apologizing to parents after allowing a man who posed as a fake DJ into their classrooms to talk to students.

The Philadelphia School District failed to do a background check on Jerez Coleman who posed as a professional DJ for singer and "X Factor" judge Alicia Keys. A student from the school did her own investigative work after meeting with Coleman, telling Action News that he was "acting shady."

"We sang for him. He talked to the students in a very low tone. We really couldn't understand him. We were told that he was the DJ for Alicia Keys, but it doesn't seem like that is the case."

The Creative and Performing Arts student went home and researched the man who identified himself as DJ Official Silent Assassin. The student, who wishes to remain anonymous, discovered that the fake DJ was in fact Jerez Coleman, a man who previously did 22 months in jail after making multiple threats to kill President Barack Obama and blow up the DC Metro System.

Coleman also made an appearance on the MTV series "Catfish" where he pretended to be a well-known rapper.

The student and her mother alerted school officials. "When I read that on the internet, it was really alarming," the student shared. "He got pictures with students, and they recorded us singing."

Coleman visited two classrooms, interacting with students after arriving at the school with two fake body guards and two camera women this past Thursday.

> **"He got pictures with students, and they recorded us singing."**
>
> A Creative and Performing Arts student

Philadelphia School District representative Lee Whack has since released a statement on behalf of Philadelphia High School for the Creative and Performing Arts.

"Today, there was an individual that had no business being in one of our schools. The individual was in the school for approximately 30 minutes and spoke to approximately 60 students," Whack stated.

"There was a member of our district staff who did not follow our typical policy and procedures when it come to permissions of visitors in our schools."

The student and her mother are concerned for students who may have exchanged their phone number or social media accounts with the man who posed as a fake DJ.

"So now they have all these children's Instagrams and they might have their phone numbers," she said. "They have their pictures and they videotaped them without our consent. This is just absurd."

"He's a big-time fraud," said the student's mother. "We need to be more careful, because in this day and age all kinds of things are taking place."

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Man carrying AR-15 in public taken into custody by Pennsylvania police

The Philadelphia man was seen carrying an AR-15 rifle through several Abington Township neighborhoods. ISTOCK

Police took an Abington Township resident into custody after he was spotted on Monday and Friday carrying an AR-15 on his back in public while walking the neighborhood streets. The unknown male was picked up on an involuntary mental health warrant and brought to a facility in Norristown for evaluation.

Police also confiscated the rifle that the man reportedly toted around in an attempt to exercise his Second Amendment rights while taunting police, a tactic the police are familiar with.

"This case illustrates the very complex nature of balancing an individual's Second Amendment rights with our primary mission to protect and serve all of our citizens."
Chief Patrick Molloy

The man was seen walking in Pennsylvania's North Hills, Ardsley, Glenside, as well as the Abington Shopping Center.

The man's strange behavior was reported to the police by several of his friends who recently grew concerned when the man began acting out of character. In fear of the man harming others or himself, the friends notified police through their Facebook page.

Police were able to take the man into custody safely and obtain a search warrant. Although Pennsylvania has open carry laws for licensed gun owners, the man's strange behavior is what caused police to act.

"Additional information was received which warranted steps to be taken for his safety and the safety of all of our citizens," stated Chief Patrick Molloy of the Abington Township Police Department.

"This case illustrates the very complex nature of balancing an individual's Second Amendment rights with our primary mission to protect and serve all of our citizens," the department said Friday.

With school shootings around the United States becoming all too common, Molloy and officers wanted to take every precaution.

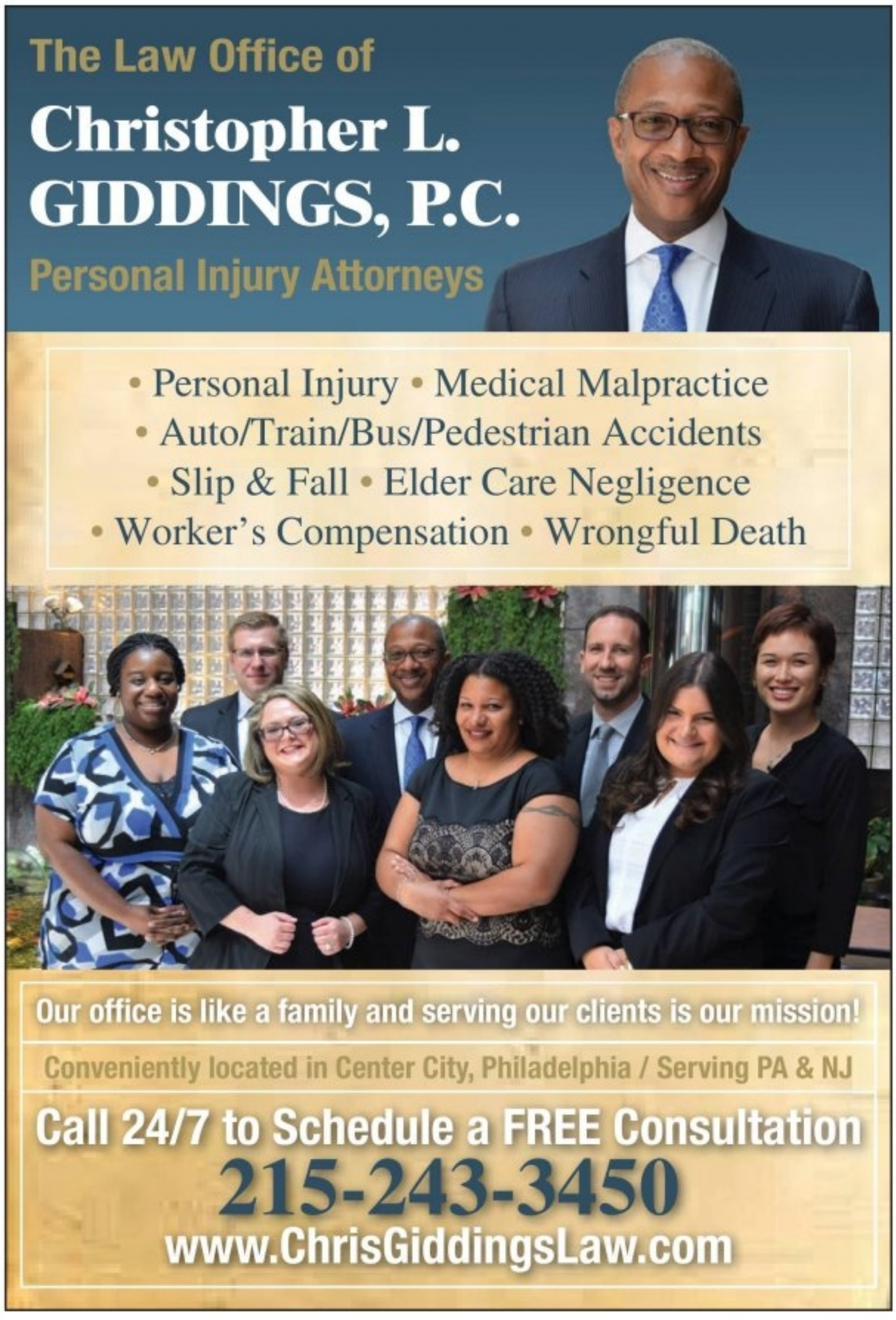
"I imagine in this environment where we've had a number of school shootings, a young man walking in the streets with an AR-15, it conjured up images of carnage," said Molloy. "We can't afford to get this wrong … we're trying to balance the rights of our citizens with public safety and it's really difficult."

While conducting the search warrant and talking with friends of the unknown man who has not been charged, police discovered that he spoke about shooting up the Abington High School in June 2017 and Penn State Abington in January.

Friends of the man also shared that they received suicidal messages from the individual. Searches on his cellphone confirmed that he could have potentially been plotting a shooting as he was looking for "what guns were used in mass shootings," "Sandy Hook," and "how many mass shooters have fatherless homes."

Following the scary incident, Molloy reached out to residents on Friday, assuring them that the Abington Township Police Department's primary focus is the safety and well-being of the community while clearing up a number of rumors that began to circulate in regards to the concerning incident.

SARAH LUOMA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Airline employee charged with murdering co-worker at Philly Airport

An airline employee allegedly stabbed his co-worker with his keys in the thigh at the airport, killing the man, police say.

SAM NEWHOUSE
sam.newhouse@metro.us

A worker at the Philadelphia Airport who allegedly killed his co-worker inside the airport has been charged with murder, police said on Friday.

Kevin Emanuel, 35, of Overbrook, was allegedly arrested by airport police after the stabbing at around 11 a.m. Thursday. He faces charges of murder and possession of an instrument of crime —referring to the keys he allegedly used to kill a man.

The victim, Aaron Jenkins, 28, of Olney, was reportedly found wounded by police inside an employee break room, and was pronounced dead around 11:51 a.m. at Penn Presbyterian Hospital.

Kevin Emanuel, of the Overbrook area, is charged with murdering his Frontier Airlines co-worker near Gate E6 at the Philly airport. PPD

Police said the stabbing was preceded by an argument. Emanuel had allegedly attacked another co-worker after an argument relating to turning on the break room lights, in a fight that Jenkins broke up. After the other man left, Emanuel allegedly attacked Jenkins, and stabbed him in the upper left thigh with his keys, cutting the femoral artery and causing his death, the Inquirer reported.

The fatal attack took place within the secure area at the Philadelphia International Airport on Thursday afternoon, past the metal detectors, but employees are allowed to circumvent some security measures in place for the public.

Emanuel didn't try to run, police said. "The defendant was stopped by airport police and taken into custody without incident," a police report stated.

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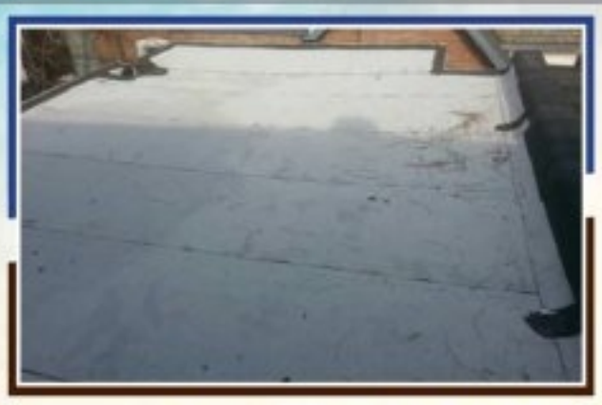

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If Donald Trump is impeached, what happens next and does he go to jail?

If Democrats retake Congress in November's midterm elections, they could begin impeachment proceedings.

MICHAEL MARTIN
letters@metro.us

Last week brought renewed talk about President Trump's potential impeachment. GETTY IMAGES

Thursday brought renewed talk about President Trump's potential impeachment, because it was Thursday, and because of what The New York Times called "losing control of his narrative" — America learned Trump had faked his pre-election doctor's note, and legal adviser Rudy Giuliani contradicted his claim that he didn't know Stormy Daniels was paid to keep quiet about their sexual encounter. So what happens now?

Will Trump be impeached?

Giuliani's Wednesday interview on Fox News was called a debacle by legal experts. It showed that Trump and White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders had lied about Trump's knowledge of Daniels' hush payment. By claiming that the payment was made by Trump's lawyer Michael Cohen, then reimbursed from Trump's personal funds, Giuliani did not absolve the president of potential campaign-finance violations, and attorneys questioned what his strategy was.

That said, there is no evidence that the Republican-controlled Congress has had enough and no sign that impeachment proceedings are even being floated by GOP leadership.

If Trump is impeached, what happens next?

If Democrats retake Congress in November's midterm elections, they could begin impeachment proceedings and restart Congressional investigations. If that resulted in impeachment or resignation, Vice President Mike Pence would take over the office.

There is a general consensus that a sitting president can't be indicted. But if Trump were suspected of crimes — such as bank fraud, money laundering, campaign-finance violations, conspiracy against the United States, or the like — he could be charged and tried. Even if he granted himself a presidential pardon, he could be tried on charges in New York State. State crimes are beyond a president's pardon power.

But as far as those offenses go, as of today there is a lot of innuendo and not much solid evidence directly connecting Trump to illegal activity. And it's far from clear that the Republican leadership would have the wherewithal to remove him from office, even if such evidence emerged.

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How to make your dog an Instagram star

But if you don't want fame going to your pup's head, these insider tips for taking a really great photo of your furry BFF from Bark are still handy.

NIKKI M. MASCALI
nikki.mascali@metro.us

Stacie Grissom is a self-described "crazy dog person," which certainly comes in handy at her day job as head of content at Bark.

"All I do is talk about dogs, take pictures of dogs, look at dogs and tell dog stories in different mediums and channels," Grissom told Metro.

And if you think that the office of the folks behind BarkBox is a heaven filled with wall-to-wall dogs, you're not too far off.

"Depending on the weather and the day, there are 20 to 25 dogs in the office," said Grissom, whose pup, Pimm, is usually among the pack. "Right now, I'm in a little conference room, and there's a little bulldog just languishing on the floor sleeping with his legs splayed out."

Pimm's escapades around the Bark office are well-documented on her Instagram and her mom's, which makes Grissom the perfect person to give us advice for taking great photos of your dog — and maybe even make them an Instagram star along the way.

"You can take incredible photos of your dog with your iPhone, you don't need a big, fancy camera to take a good photo of your best bud," she said.

Read the latest rant about unleashed dogs in the city on Metro's new Grumble on page 19.

FIRST, BE AUTHENTIC

"You can't want to build your dog's account just to build it. It has to be a hobby and a thing you love already that's just icing on the cake," Grissom said. "People can see when someone is trying to build their dog's account. I think some of the most famous dogs, their photos aren't mind-blowing works of art, but what their parents have done really well is telling the story of those dogs in the photos."

EMBRACE YOUR PUP'S PECULIARITY

"Find the quirky things that are unique and speak to the rest of us sitting on the couch snuggling with our dogs to go, 'Oh, my dog does that, too!'" Grissom suggested. "That's where it starts to be a little bit of magic, and I've seen people pick up an awful lot of followers really quickly."

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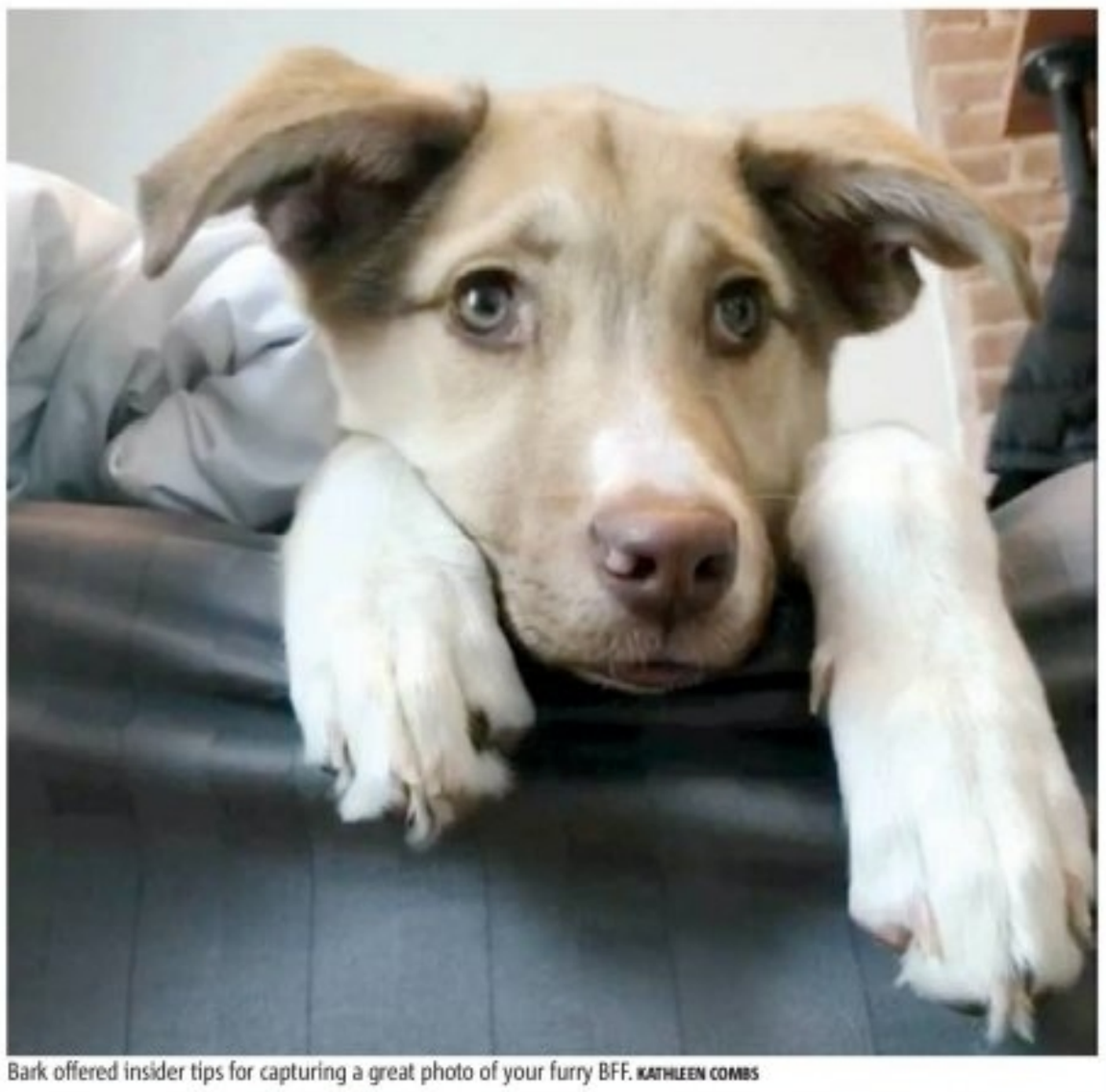
LIGHTING IS EVERYTHING

"You don't want light coming from behind — you want to make sure you have the light coming on your dog, and shoot at their level to really capture their facial expression," Grissom advised. "Keep the background simple, and keep the focus on your dog."

Shoot outside as much as possible, she added. "If you're inside, shoot next to the window. Don't shoot with your phone facing the window, position your dog so the window is shedding light on their face, not their back."

THE SECRET WEAPON

"You know your dog best, so do whatever you can do to get them to make a funny facial expression or get some spark in their eyes to bring out that funny expression," Grissom said. "Peanut butter is the secret ingredient. Put a dollop on their nose — they'll sit still trying to lick it off, and you'll get really amazing photos because they'll wrinkle up their face and put their tongue on their nose."



Bark offered insider tips for capturing a great photo of your furry BFF. KATHLEEN COMBS

OFF-LINE OPERATIVES

"Networking with other dogs and finding a community of people is really helpful," Grissom said. "I know a lot of the famous dogs are part of meet-up groups, and a lot of the most successful dogs have offline things they do."

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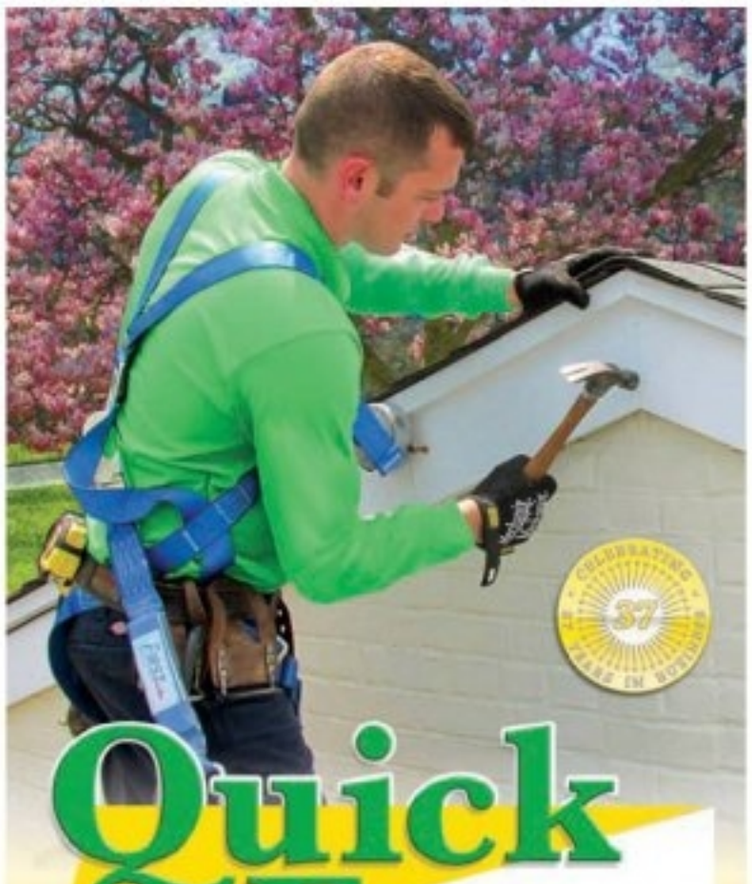

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North Korea says denuclearization pledge not result of US-led sanctions

North and South Korea are technically still at war because their 1950-53 conflict ended in a truce.

Impoverished North Korea has been hit by a series of U.N. and U.S. sanctions in recent years in a bid to rein in its nuclear and missile programs. GETTY IMAGES

North Korea said on Sunday its intention to denuclearize, unveiled at a historic inter-Korean summit, was not the result of U.S.-led sanctions and pressure, warning the United States not to mislead public opinion.

Impoverished North Korea has been hit by a series of U.N. and U.S. sanctions in recent years in a bid to rein in its nuclear and missile programs.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in vowed "complete denuclearization" of the Korean peninsula in the first inter-Korean summit in more than a decade on April 27, but the declaration did not include steps to reach that goal.

The North's official KCNA news agency said Washington was "misleading public opinion" by claiming the denuclearization pledge was the result of sanctions and other pressure.

The U.S. should not "deliberately provoke" the North by moving to deploy strategic assets in South Korea and raising human rights issues, KCNA said, citing a foreign ministry spokesman.

"This act cannot be construed otherwise than a dangerous attempt to ruin the hardly-won atmosphere of dialogue and bring the situation back to square one," the spokesman was quoted as saying.

President Donald Trump, who plans to meet Kim over the next few weeks, has said he will maintain sanctions and pressure on the North and "not repeat the mistakes of past administrations" and has said his tough stance had led to the breakthrough.

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Nikki M. Mascali
Metro Reporter

Put a leash on your damn dog

It's nearly summer, which is great for us dog owners. However, there are lots of fur parents who love taking their dogs off-leash — despite very clear leash laws being in place. To not have consideration for other dogs and their humans is selfish, and it needs to stop. My beloved Kona and my partner were recently attacked by an off-leash dog whose owners did absolutely nothing but watch as he tried to wrestle their dog away without dropping Kona's leash. Sure, your pooch could very well be well-behaved and perfect just like my Kona is — but we all know how unpredictable their mind and focus can be, so here's a newsflash: Your dog is your responsibility, and other dogs and their humans should not have to suffer or be fearful when we venture out because you're ignorant and refuse to obey the law the rest of us do. Put a leash on your damn dog. Kona and I will thank you for your human decency.

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MARCUS PEREZ @MARKAAAAY
Sometimes when I look at dogs face, if i concentrate hard enough I can almost see a person. Or I might just be crazy.

LOVE, FRANCIS DOMINIC

@FRNCISSDOMINC Dogs are so much better than people.

SHANNONPURSER @SHANNONPURSER I just started thinking about guide dogs and almost burst into tears. I'm too fragile to be alive.

THOUGHTS OF A DOG @DOG_FEELINGS goooooob morning. i tried to eat a flower. but the human saw me. i have no excuse for my actions. it just looked yummy

GABRUS @GABRUS
Imagine Trump walking a dog

DOLLY MARLOWE @DOLLYMARLOWE
I just got in an argument with a woman who left her dog in a hot car to go shopping. So, PSA everyone, I've broken a car window to rescue a dog, and I've got zero problem doing it again. Though, I shouldn't have to.

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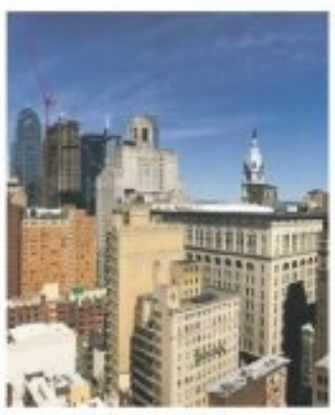

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Aries Check your motives before you indulge in something that isn't right for you. Following someone else's lead will result in disappointment. Be true to yourself and your beliefs.

Taurus Stay focused on what's important, and don't make unnecessary changes. Maintain balance and integrity, regardless of what others decide to do.

Gemini Persuasive tactics will work wonders for you initially, but before you talk big and bold about what you have to offer, consider the consequences if you cannot deliver.

Cancer Make a unique contribution to stand out and be recognized for your ingenuity. Explore new possibilities and meet new friends by participating in functions that interest you.

Leo A change may excite you, but consider your choices and the possible outcomes before you make a move. Choose stability over adventure.

Virgo Trust your instincts. Participate in something to learn from the experience. Know your limitations and set boundaries that make you feel comfortable. Share with people you trust.

Libra The comments offered by children, friends or a loved one will be sincere. Don't take offense when you should be using criticism to make yourself better.

Scorpio Drive, determination and doing things your way will bring results. Partnerships will add balance and keep you from veering off course. Romance will be nurturing and will lower your stress levels.

Sagittarius Personal change should be your goal. Consider your objective and whom you are dealing with. Share personal information only with people you can trust not to reveal it.

Capricorn An opportunity to expand a service, skill or talent you have into something that can offer added income looks promising. Clear a workspace at home and turn your dream into a reality.

Aquarius Emotions will be difficult to hide. Don't overreact or be indulgent to avoid having a necessary discussion. Love and understanding will bring far better results.

Pisces Don't make unnecessary changes that will alter your look or give someone the wrong impression regarding what you want. If you are open, you'll be offered good advice. EUGENIA LAST

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Hannibal Burress
ALL PHOTOS PROVIDED

Philly flaunts a hot, star-studded line-up of comedy.

These will be the biggest laughs all summer long.

KYLE V. HILLER
letters@metro.us

Philadelphia is a destination for rising stars and the biggest names in comedy. From Kevin Hart to Tony Rock, this summer promises to be one of the funniest ever. Don't miss these mavericks.

Hannibal Burress
Saturday, May 19, 8 p.m.
Merriam Theater
250 S. Broad St.
Fresh off the success of his last Netflix special "Comedy Camisado," this "Broad City" and "The Eric Andre Show" co-star and staff writer for the classic "30 Rock" comes with abrupt, edgy humor.

Donnell Rawlings
Thursday, May 24 at 8 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, May 26 7:30 p.m., 10 p.m.; Sunday, May 27 7:30 p.m.
Helium Comedy Club
2031 Sansom St.
This comedian saw a breakthrough after his various roles on the iconic "Chappelle's Show," and he hasn't stopped since. Rawlings, with credits like "Chelsea Lately" and "Guy Code" under his belt, makes a four-day stop in Philadelphia.

Tammy Pescatelli
Thursday, May 31, 8 p.m.; Friday, June 1, 7:30 p.m., 10 p.m.
Helium Comedy Club
After landing a top five

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Tammy Pescatelli

Luenell

David Cross

Aries Spears

spot on NBC's "Last Comic Standing," Pescatelli has been steady on the rise. Her latest special, "Finding the Funny," was one of the most viewed specials on Netflix.

Luenell
Thursday, June 7, 8 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, June 8-9 7:30 p.m., 10 p.m.; Sunday, June 10, 7 p.m.
Helium Comedy Club
If you've turned on a television, you've most likely been graced with Luenell's comedic presence. The comedian/actress has appeared in films like "Borat" and "Think Like a Man," and was a guest star in "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia," "Californication," and "The Boondocks."

David Cross
Saturday, June 23, 8 p.m.
The Fillmore
29 E. Allen St.
Perhaps better known as Tobias Funke from the cult classic "Arrested Development," Cross visits Philly this summer as no stranger to stand-up comedy. The veteran has been performing since the '80s, way before he became a bonafide television star.

Aries Spears
Thursday, July 12 8 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, July 13-14 7:30 p.m., 10 p.m.; Sunday, July 15 7:30 p.m.
Helium Comedy Club
The "MADtv" alum brings his unabashed takes on current events and his best impressions to Philly for a hot summer weekend of comedy. Spears is a comedic heavyweight and arguably one of the biggest names in the game.

Kevin Hart
Saturday, July 14 8 p.m.
BB&T Pavilion
1 Harbour Blvd, Camden
The Philly native and living legend comes home for a one night stint of his "Irresponsible" tour. His manic energy is contagious, evidenced by his widespread popularity, Hollywood success and pervasiveness in pop culture.

Tony Rock
Thursday, July 26, 8 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, July 27-28, 7:30 p.m., 10 p.m.; Sunday, July 29, 7:30pm
Helium Comedy Club
Jack-of-all-trades (and not just Chris Rock's little brother), Tony Rock is a versatile comedian who is not living in the shadow of his legendary sibling. The actor, writer and producer has credits on "Think Like A Man" and "Real Husbands of Hollywood." Rock, the host of "Apollo Live" and "All Def Comedy Live," is coming off his own Comedy Central Presents special.
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Fallen idols: when good shows have bad stars

From "The Cosby Show" to "Smallville," celebrities are spoiling the shows you grew up with.

HENRIETTA JONES
letters@metro.us

From "Smallville" to sex trafficking charges — Allison Mack. THE CW

Bill Cosby, once considered America's favorite TV dad, was convicted of aggravated indecent assault. Dozens of women have accused Cosby, but his conviction is a milestone in the #MeToo movement.

However, you won't catch a single newsreel of the court footage that isn't accompanied by a clip from "The Cosby Show." For the public, it's a confronting juxtaposition increasingly encountered by viewers: the feel-good legacy of favorite childhood shows weighed up against the reality of unforgivable crimes.

For many viewers it's disconcerting: Some TV shows have a lasting impact, offering not just enjoyment but comfort and familiarity. Through online streaming, it's never been easier to re-watch old seasons for that feel-good feeling, like the security blanket from your footie-pajama days. But once you know the character you idolized is a real-life sex predator, there's little chance watching the show will feel the same.

While Cosby's is one of the biggest celebrity falls from grace, the bizarre tale of Allison Mack, the actress best known for the teen Superman drama "Smallville," has also dominated news headlines.

Mack stands accused of being second-in-command of a sex-trafficking cult called NXIVM that, in a sinister twist, allegedly brands the women involved. Pleading not guilty, she's been released on $5 million bail.

"Glee" is another show that's lost its shine. The overdose of Cory Monteith, who played Finn, was embraced as a tragedy by fans, and was written into the script. However, the arrest of co-star Mark Salling for child pornography makes it almost impossible for viewers to revisit the once-popular show. Salling pleaded guilty in December 2017, was due to be sentenced in March 2018, but committed suicide in January.

With the #MeToo movement growing, these are simply a handful of cases that have come under scrutiny, with more celebrity bubbles expected to burst as victims speak up.

The biggest test of fan loyalty will come when the final season of "House of Cards" airs on Netflix later in 2018. Lead Kevin Spacey was dropped from the award-winning series after allegations of sexual misconduct came to light.

While Netflix's decision not to kill the series outright — saving hundreds of production jobs — was praised, it remains to be seen whether fans are open to returning to a narrative where the sinister actions of its male lead character often blurred the lines with real life.

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 # 3105 Sheena Jones, # 3301 Atiya Holt, # 3316 Nakeya Small,
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#3210 - Damian Bridges, #3612 - Stephanie Whitley

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#1502 - Sherwood Stith, #3718 - Jake Delbene, #3505 - James Devine, #4613 - Tracy Edmonds, #3417 - Edward Freeman, #3403 - Carlos Garcia, 4124 - Michael Kenny, #4121 - Naiya Lopez, #4513 - Davia Magee, # 1210 - Ricardo Nunez, #3314 - Jacquelin Thomas

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Drug Companies Fear Release Of New $2 Sex Pill For Older Men

Men in clinical trial see huge boost in desire, strength of erections, and sexual activity without side effects.

NEW YORK - It's hard to believe that in America today an affordable pill that could improve the sex lives of millions of men is in danger of being yanked from the shelves. And it's just because big drug companies fear for their profits.

The pharmaceutical industry is desperately trying to stop shipments of the remarkable new "JackedUp" pill.Big Pharma is worried because men are reporting increased sex drive, stronger erections and more stamina - all without the side-effects and $40-per-pill price tag associated with drugs like Viagra. Clinical results show men feel these benefits within just a few weeks of taking JackedUp's active ingredient.

The pill, made for men over 50, was released early last month. Despite Big Pharma's efforts, sales have already exceeded expectations.

> *"**If you're over 50** and suffering from low sex drive, decreased stamina and inability to perform, low testosterone is the biggest factor. **Drug companies do NOT want men to know about this afforable new pill..."***

Exciting Benefits

There are very good reasons why sales are booming and drug companies want it gone. Apart from costing just two dollars per daily dose, the clinical results confirm JackedUp's active ingredient is very impressive. It greatly boosts a man's ability to get and keep erections. Stamina during sex also improves.

The product also has a unique ability to help men feel more passion, desire, and sex drive. These impressive benefits come from boosting testosterone levels by up to a whopping 193%. Doctors are astounded by its effects.

Why do drug companies want this pill stopped? Since the "JackedUp" pill is natural, drug companies can't patent it (like they did with Viagra) and make big profits. Plus, if you're over 50 and suffering from low sex drive, decreased stamina and inability to perform, low testosterone is the biggest factor. If you can safely boost your testosterone, *you won't need their expensive pills*. That's the very reason big business is trying to have it pulled from the shelves.

Strong Clinical Results Worry Big Pharma

Recent clinical trials on JackedUp's active ingredient have made the drug companies more desperate. The trial results were published in major medical journals, and doctors are now recommending JackedUp to patients.

The testing was done on men 40 – 65 years old, and the results were remarkable. The men who took the active ingredient in JackedUp reported major improvements in their sex lives. Their ability to get and keep erections went up by over 200%. Libido and sex drive surged. Even staying power and stamina during sex more than doubled!

Head of product development, Dave McNeill, said the big drug companies weren't worried at first. "They didn't care because the active ingredient can take a few weeks before many men really feel the benefits. But these awesome clinical trials really got their attention. They're learning A LOT of men will wait a few weeks if it means avoiding negative side effects and saving money."

How It Works

The "JackedUp" pill works by helping older men produce more testosterone. It doesn't force dangerous fake testosterone into your body like injections do. Instead, it works with your body to produce testosterone naturally. And the results have been extraordinary. It's like your body reboots itself to feel like it did in the prime of your life.

Initial Users Are Thrilled...And Worried

"JackedUp has been awesome for my sex drive and performance! I'm worried it may not be available in the future. The idea that it may be taken away just to secure some big drug company's profits is very frustrating."

- Rob H., 49 years old, Colorado Springs, CO

"My wife and I were both sexually vibrant until I had prostate cancer. After my surgery we tried everything my doctor recommended but nothing worked. Within a few weeks of taking JackedUp, everything has been functioning beautifully and we've been riding high ever since!"

- Ken S., 78 years old, Phoenix, AZ

Doctors Speak Out

Drug companies are also concerned that doctors are now recommending JackedUp. The active ingredient has strong clinical results and lacks the side effects seen in current drugs on the market. This makes it an easy option for doctors to suggest.

Big Pharma Worried: Older men are having better sex after taking the newly released $2 pill called JackedUp. Clinical trials show active ingredient triggers surge in desire, strength of erections, and sexual activity in older men.

Dr. Laguna-Bedia, a specialist in internal medicine says, "A lot of men think their lack of interest and inability to perform are simply parts of aging. This is just not true. JackedUp can help these men regain a healthy appetite for sex and the physical ability to perform."

"JackedUp works by boosting key male hormones without side effects. The benefits of these hormones to sexual health are well known, but they actually do more than that. Men also report more energy, less body fat and higher motivation," said Dr. G. Pereira, a renowned surgeon in Florida.

Dr. Jacob Moss notes, "I recommend JackedUp if you're struggling with getting and keeping erections or low libido. It's also a great option for men who want to last longer and have more control over when they orgasm."

Special Opportunity for Our Readers

Drug companies are fighting hard to get rid of this product. This is making inventory disappear fast. Thankfully, a special discounted supply has been reserved for Metro Philadelphia readers. But only for those who call within the next 48 hours.

This is the best opportunity to try JackedUp risk-free with their 100% results guarantee.

A Regional Order Hotline has been set up for local readers to call. This gives all men an equal chance to try JackedUp.

Starting at 6:00 am today the order hotline will be open for the next 48 hours. All you have to do is call TOLL FREE 1-888-973-4753 and the company will do the rest.

Due to the possibility of JackedUp being pulled from the shelf, phone lines are often busy. If you call and do not immediately get through, please be patient and call back. Current supplies of JackedUp are limited, and callers that don't get through to the order hotline within the next 48 hours will be forced to wait for more inventory to be produced. This can take as long as 6 weeks.

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May sweeps: Why this is the best month to watch TV

From death and destruction to babies and breakups, networks deliver as they chase ratings. SOME SPOILERS INCLUDED (also, catch up on your TV, people).

HENRIETTA JONES
letters@metro.us

Oh, Michael. You've been missed. "JANE THE VIRGIN" ON THE CW

The weather might be getting warmer, but if you're a TV tragic, this month is best spent curled up on the couch — thanks to May sweeps.

The ratings measure exists thanks to AC Nielsen, which sent out actual printed diaries to households in the 1950s, asking families to log their TV habits. Collectors would then "sweep" them back up in a westward movement across the country, analyzing the data to work out just what shows people were watching (hint: "I Love Lucy" and "Leave it to Beaver" scored big).

What used to take a week now stretches over a month of TV viewing. Despite the rise of online streaming and on-demand viewing mixing it up, it's still seen as one of the best ways to gauge viewer habits — and the more people that watch, the more networks can charge.

To tip the numbers in their favor, networks program the juiciest plot points, season debuts and finales, TV specials and viewer events.

Here's just a sample of what to expect.

Reality finales

The big reality shows will award their winners right at the end of May sweeps; expect competition to be fierce. "Dancing With the Stars: Athletes" runs only four weeks and is scheduled to tie in with the sweeps period; NBC's "The Voice" and ABC's "American Idol" go head to head, both holding their finales May 21.

Weddings

Everyone loves a TV wedding — especially when things go wrong. This week it's "Big Bang Theory"'s Sheldon marrying Amy; on May 17th you'll see Jo's wedding to Alex on "Grey's Anatomy" — but only if the writers want a happy ending.

We've already clocked one sweeps wedding thanks to "Suits," but in a stroke of luck for network TV, star Meghan Markle's real-life nuptials to Prince Harry fall during the sweeps period, complete with a Lifetime movie, documentary specials, parody live shows and live crosses (and don't worry — we're on the case for all of the above).

Cliffhangers

Cliffhangers are so hard to pull off, yet so satisfying when executed correctly. So far, it's hats off to "Jane the Virgin." The show pulled a brilliant rabbit out of its ratings hat by bringing back (in true telenovela style) Michael, Jane's supposedly dead husband.

Goodbyes

Everyone is nice when someone dies, and audiences love to send off the shows they abandoned once they got bored. "New Girl" airs its last episode May 15, and this week you'll see part one of the final ep of "Once Upon a Time."

Sweeps is also a time to say goodbye to characters — while "NCIS" doesn't wrap up its season until the end of May, beloved character Abby Sciuto's last episode is tomorrow, and it doesn't bode well that her character was shot in last week's episode.

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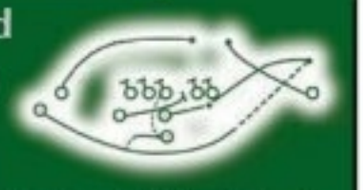

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KARL SAINT LUCY
letters@metro.us

Summer is a great time to craft your skills or pick up some new hobbies, but you don't have to make a trip to the library or local university to keep learning.

Massive open online courses, or MOOCs, give you all the perks of going back to school but at a much cheaper rate. Most can be audited for free, and you can take them from your laptop at home — you're only limited by your internet connection. Here are a few business and personal development MOOC offerings coming up, by provider.

Coursera
Courses, specializations and even online degrees are available at coursera.org, founded in 2012 by Stanford Computer Science professors Andrew Ng and Daphne Koller. But Coursera isn't limited to computer science. Upcoming business and personal development courses include Successful Negotiation: Essential Strategies & Skills ($49, University of Michigan, starts May 7), A Life of Happiness and Fulfillment ($49, Indian School of Business, starts May 7), and Psychology at Work ($49, University of Western Australia, starts June 18). Note that all these courses can be taken free — the price point is for a validated certificate. The 10-part Career Success Specialization from UC Irvine can be started at any time and done on your schedule for $39/month. Browse for these and more at coursera.org.

edX
A project started by Harvard and MIT in 2012, edX.org offers a wide array of course material from the top universities. Like Coursera, most courses can be audited free — prices listed here indicate the cost of a verified certificate. Business and management courses offered this summer include Entrepreneurial Leadership Toolbox ($99 from Babson, starts June 18), Academic and Business Writing ($49 from UC Berkeley, starts July 30), and Public Speaking ($49 from Rochester Institute of Technology, starts July 31).Those wanting a deeper dive can check out edX's MicroMasters programs, which offer graduate-level credits that can be applied toward master's degrees at the awarding institution for a quicker and cheaper degree — see edx.org/micromasters for details.

MIT OpenCourseware
MIT publishes material, available for free, from more than 2,400 of its courses on its OpenCourseware platform at ocw.mit.edu. There's no credit or certification here, but knowledge is its own reward. Course materials available from Sloan School of Management include Game Theory for Strategic Advantage; Ethical Practice: Leading Through Professionalism, Social Responsibility, and System Design; and Executing Strategy for Results. See ocw.mit.edu/help/get-started-with-ocw for more information.

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Ben Simmons drives to the rim with Boston's Marcus Morris looking to defend. GETTY IMAGES

Youth excuse not one Brown wants to use

The Sixers are down 0-3 in the series with Game 4 set for tonight in Philly.

ANDY JASNER
sports@metro.us

The 76ers are down and likely out.

After falling to the Boston Celtics 101-98 in overtime Saturday night at the Wells Fargo Center, the Sixers find themselves in an 0-3 hole in the best-of-seven Eastern Conference semifinals.

In the history of NBA best-of-seven series, a team down 0-3 is 0-129. That's zero wins in 129 career series.

Needless to say, the odds aren't good of advancing to the Eastern Conference Finals if you're a Sixers fan.

Defeating the Miami Heat in five games gave the Sixers some hope they could make a deep run in the playoffs, but this group has shown they're not ready through the first three games against the Celtics.

The young players aren't ready. The veterans aren't ready. The coaching staff isn't ready.

This shouldn't be shocking news. An NBA championship couldn't possibly have been expected this season even when the Sixers won their final 16 regular season games and took down the overmatched Heat in five games.

Joel Embiid had 22 points and 19 rebounds while Ben Simmons added 16 points, eight assists and eight rebounds on Saturday night. When the game mattered most down the stretch and in overtime, key turnovers hurt this young group.

In the aftermath of the loss — even the confetti machine was blasted early — head coach Brett Brown refused to blame this series on youth.

"The last thing I want to do is lean on youth, I don't want to do that," Brown told reporters on the podium postgame. "I give credit to the Boston Celtics, they played in the Eastern Conference championship last year with a handful of the players they have. We are navigating through this, this isn't an entirely youthful thing at all. This is some of the matchups that have hurt us. I respect their positional defensive athleticism and switchable people. That's the story, I definitely do not think it's the youth.

"I think when the lights go out, like I will think in many ways, Joel is going to learn a lot," Brown added. "Ben Simmons is going to learn a lot, but there is some truth to that now. There is a lot of truth to that."

The Sixers' veterans — Ersan Ilyasova, Marco Belinelli and J.J. Redick, among others — struggled in key moments of Game 3 as well. Redick had a crucial turnover. Ilyasova and Belinelli didn't seem in sync as much as they have been.

The entire team was not in the type of playoff mode they needed to be in a huge game at home.

"I don't like blaming it on youth, we made mistakes," Embiid said. "It doesn't matter how old we are, it doesn't matter that we've never been in this position. You have to give them a lot of credit, that they showed up when it was the time to show up. You have to give them a lot of credit. I hate to say it was youth."

The Celtics have plenty of youth too, most notably Jayson Tatum and Jaylen Brown. Tatum has scored 20 or more points in five consecutive playoff games, passing Larry Bird for the most consecutive 20-point playoff games by a rookie in Celtics franchise history.

Early start for Game 4

Jayson Tatum and Joel Embiid will go at it again tonight at Wells Fargo Center in Game 4. The game has an early tip time of 6 p.m. (TNT). GETTY IMAGES

Harper is still at top of wish list for Phillies

Bryce Harper will be one of the most coveted free agents in baseball history later this year. GETTY IMAGES

The Phillies couldn't help but admire what they witnessed on Friday in a 7-3 loss to the Nationals.

Five-time All-Star and 2015 National League MVP Bryce Harper notched his 11th and 12th home runs of the season in dramatic fashion. His first was a leadoff blast the opposite way to give the Nationals a 1-0 lead. His second was a 473-foot shot to deep center that registered as the fifth longest home run of the season.

At the end of it all, the Phillies were down 5-0 in just the second inning and Nick Pivetta was pulled after just 46 pitches.

"He's a good hitter. He's on fire right now," Pivetta said of Harper. "I had some success against him earlier, but he got me tonight. It's just the way baseball goes sometimes."

Harper's two home runs moved him into first in the NL. He also leads the NL in RBI with 28.

The admiration that the Phillies have for Harper as a player is obvious. Since the Phillies' dominance in the NL East from 2007–11, Harper has led the Nationals to four division titles in the past six seasons.

According to FanRag's Robert Murray, an MLB Executive said that the Phillies will "get one" of either Harper or Orioles third baseman Manny Machado in the offseason.

It's interesting to see how Harper has responded against a team that so many look at as his next career destination. Harper's 19 home runs against the Phillies since the 2015 season are the most he has against any other opponent in that time span. For his career, he's batted .282 with 22 home runs and 57 RBI in 323 plate appearances against the Phillies.

But, his next destination is a touchy subject for Harper. Back in February, he told reporters he would walk out of a press conference if he was asked about his future beyond this season. He's remained quiet on the topic since.

According to ESPN's Jerry Crasnick, six MLB front-office executives believe that Harper could field a contract over $400 million this winter, which would be a league record. The current record is held by Giancarlo Stanton, who signed a 13-year, $325 million deal in 2014.

The Phillies have been shedding salary and gearing up for several years at the chance land Harper this offseason. They're willing to spend whatever it takes to get him.

With every passing at-bat against the Phillies, it's hard not to envision a world of Harper in the red pinstripes. Pairing him next to a young superstar in the making in Rhys Hoskins would instantly make the Phillies one of the most dangerous teams in the MLB.

Until that time comes, Harper will have plenty more games like he had Friday against the Phillies and the visions are all fans can hold on to.

JEFF MCMENAMIN

Phillies with an ugly 'L' on Sunday

The Phillies suffered arguably their worst loss of the season Sunday as they blew a 4-1 lead and lost, 5-4, to the Washington Nationals.

Tommy Hunter and Hector Neris could not solve the Nationals lineup in the eighth and ninth innings as Anthony Rendon and Wilmer Difo did the honors at the plate for Washington.

Max Scherzer struck out 15 Phillies on the day.

Jake Arrieta had a strong outing (6.0 innings, 2 hits, 1 earned run) despite the Phillies loss.

The Phillies will start a four-game set at Citizens Bank Park with the San Francisco Giants on Monday with Zach Eflin (0-0, 1.50 ERA) getting the ball for the Phils. Eflin retired the first 15 batters he saw in his season debut on May 1, but the Phillies wound up losing to Miami, 2-1, in extra innings.

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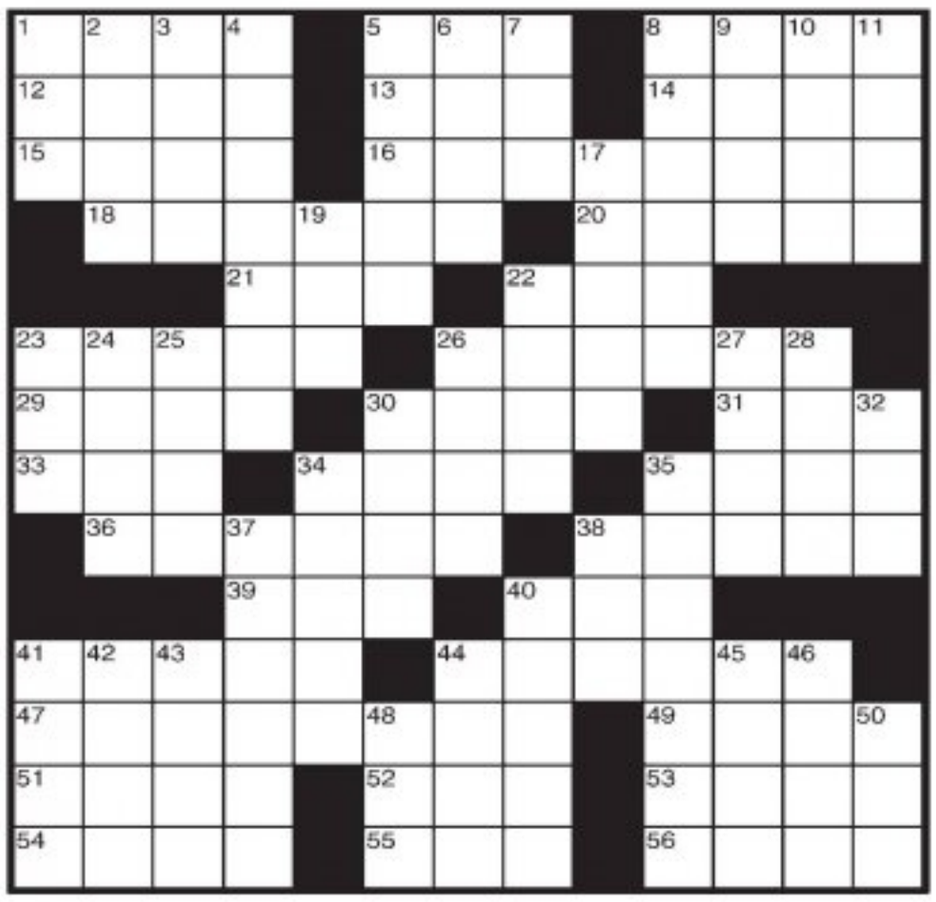

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ACROSS

1 Tennis great Steffi
5 Bump
8 Rodent
12 Kind of shirt
13 Make – -- double
14 Stravinsky or Sikorsky
15 Speak unclearly
16 Canadian boatman
18 Badge
20 Tries to lose
21 Pitch in
22 – Mineo of films
23 Radiate
26 Eats heartily (2 wds.)
29 Dumas senior
30 "Not on your –!"
31 Cow's mouthful
33 Miscellany
34 Talk wildly
35 – -- chance!
36 LPs
38 Bedding plant
39 – -- tree (stumped)
40 – alai
41 Rapidity
44 Dished out
47 Talked to oneself, maybe
49 Dots in "la mer"
51 Comic strip pooch
52 Sandra or Ruby
53 Bird beaks
54 Gentlemen
55 AARP members
56 Slalom obstacle

DOWN

1 All-purpose MDs
2 Thespian's quest
3 Baking powder ingredient
4 Prohibited
5 Kidded around
6 Bohr's study
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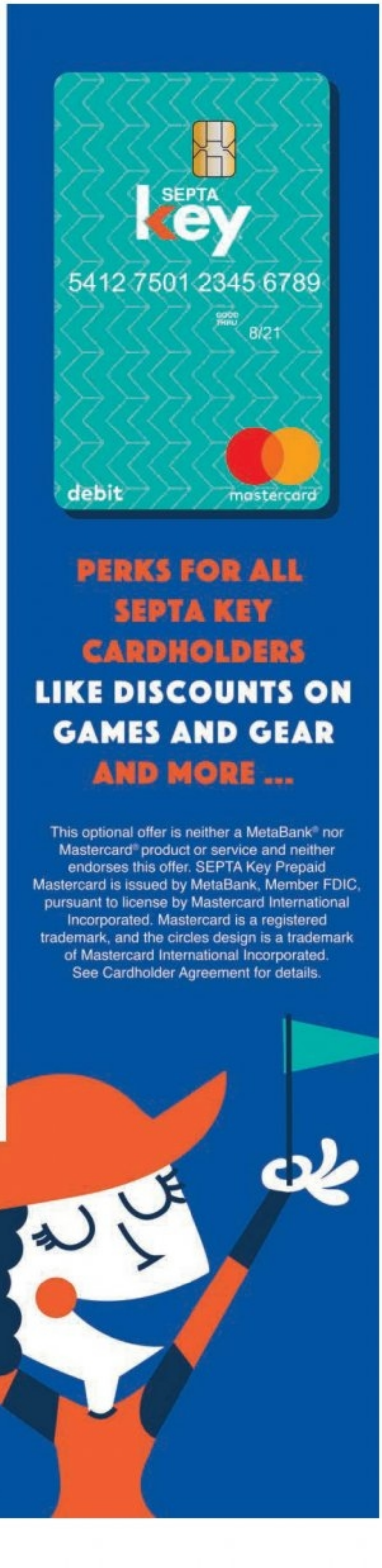
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Do you take metformin, (e.g. Glucophage), to treat your Type 2 Diabetes?

If so, you may be able to join a research study of investigational medication.

Study participants must:

- Have been taking the same dose of metformin, (e.g. Glucophage), for at least 3 months
- Be an adult 18 to 65 years old

Qualified participants will receive all study-related care and study medication at no cost.

Compensation up to $3,250 for time and travel may be available.

Insurance is not required to participate, and transportation may be available.

HASSMAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE

For more information, call toll-free 1.866.230.4185 or visit HRITrials.com

All persons depicted are models used for illustrative purposes.

VICTORY-1

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KNEE PAIN CAN BE DEFEATING

BUT VICTORY CAN BE YOURS.

The VICTORY-1 study is a 52-week clinical trial examining an ultra-purified form of capsaicin - a naturally-occurring compound found in chili peppers - and its potential to provide extended relief from osteoarthritis knee pain with a single local injection. If you are between 40 and 95 years of age, have knee osteoarthritis with moderate to severe pain, and have experienced difficulty managing your knee osteoarthritis pain, you may be eligible to participate. Speak with a member of the staff to learn if the VICTORY-1 study may be an option for you.

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DEPRESSED?

Are you treating your depression with medication? Are you still feeling depressed?

If so, please call Hassman Research Institute about participating in our research study of an investigational drug for adults with treatment-resistant depression.

Qualified participants must: • Be 18 or older • Be taking prescribed antidepressant medication • Be currently experiencing a depressive episode

Insurance is not required to participate in our study, and all study-related care and study medications are provided at no charge.

Transportation and compensation up to $7,500 for time and travel may be available.

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